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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20503

RE: RIN: 1615-AC15

Dear Director Mulvaney,

I write to express my strong concern regarding the proposed rescindment of work authorization for many H-4 visa holders. The revocation of work authorization for an estimated 90,000 visa holders nationwide, including many of our constituents in Utah, would harm these families and their financial independence and damage Utah's economy.

As you know, in 2015, the Department of Homeland Security published a final rule extending work authorization to certain visa holders. This work authorization opened the opportunity to contribute to the American economy to a very specific category of visa holders—spouses of H-1B nonimmigrants who are currently working to obtain employment-based lawful permanent resident status. H-1B visa holders tend to be highly educated and work in specialized and skilled roles such as engineers, medical doctors, programmers, and other technology employees. A large share of these H-1B and H-4 visa holders come from countries that face extraordinary delays in moving to permanent resident status, which present further obstacles to their career advancement, financial success, and ability to contribute to their community.

I regularly hear from employers and entrepreneurs in the technology sector and other dynamic industries who have serious concerns that they cannot or will not be able to fill jobs without skilled H-1B workers. By complicating the financial opportunities of workers and their spouses, this proposed rule would impose further burdens on employers, prospective employees, and limit the economic potential of our state and country. Work authorization for select H-4 visa holders, allows spouses to continue their career and provide their families with greater economic security, enabling H-1B visa holders to come to our country and contribute to our economy.

While I share the Administration's concern that our nation's current immigration system needs bold and comprehensive reform, I firmly believe that depriving H-4 visa holders of the opportunity to work will not improve our immigration system and will hinder our nation's economic success.

I therefore request that the Office of Management and Budget not proceed with consideration of this proposed rule. I welcome any further discussion of the negative effects this proposed rule would have on families in Utah and my state's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben McAdams".

Ben McAdams
Member of Congress